

Message Text

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UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (BOWEN, DAVID R.), US, AO, SF

SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF CONGRESSMAN BOWEN'S VISIT

REF: CAPE TOWN 0021

UNDER HEADING "VALUE SEEN IN SA'S PRESENCE" CAPE TIMES,
JANUARY 16, CARRIED ACCOUNT OF ADDITIONAL PRESS INTERVIEW
WITH CONGRESSMAN BOWEN, AS FOLLOWS:

QTE THE VALUE OF A SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN
ANGOLA FAR OUTWEIGHED THE DISADVANTAGES, UNITED STATES
CONGRESSMAN, MR. DAVID BOWEN, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE BELIEVED THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD
WITHDRAW FROM THE TERRITORY IF ADEQUATE MILITARY AID FROM THE
WEST DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

AND WHILE HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER UNITED STATES ASSIS-
TANCE FOR FNLA AND UNITA FORCES, MR. BOWEN WAS 'UNFORTUNATELY
PESSIMISTIC' ABOUT THE CHANCES OF REVERSING THE UNITED STATES
DECISION TO BLOCK AID TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIES.

HE SAID IT WAS THE AFTERMATH OF THE VIETNAM WAR, NOT SOUTH
AFRICA'S PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, THAT WAS DETERRING AMERICANS FROM
SUPPORTING GREATER INVOLVEMENT.

HE BELIEVED THAT OTHER WESTERN NATIONS AS WELL AS SOME BLACK
AFRICAN STATES, WHO HAD AS MUCH AT STAKE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE
ANGOLAN WAR AS THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID
AND EQUIPMENT TO THE UNITA-FNLA ALLIANCE.

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IT WAS SOUTH AFRICA, HOWEVER, WHICH WAS MOST DIRECTLY

THREATENED BY THE PROSPECT OF A COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN ANGOLA.

MR. BOWEN, WHO HAD DISCUSSIONS IN ZAIRE WITH THE FNLA AND UNITA LEADERS, DR. JONAS SAVIMBI, BEFORE HIS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, SAID IT WAS APPARENT THAT MOST AFRICAN NATIONS OPPOSED TO THE RUSSIAN-BACKED MPLA WERE GRATEFUL FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND REGARDED IT AS ESSENTIAL.

'SO LONG AS RUSSIA AND CUBA ARE THERE THEY FEEL JUSTIFIED IN CALLING ON WHATEVER HELP THEY NEED FOR SURVIVAL, WHEREVER IT MAY COME FROM.'

HE BELIEVED THAT THE REPUBLIC'S PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY 'FAR OUTWEIGHED ANY NEGATIVE ASPECT' AND THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT GIVEN ASSISTANCE THE MILITARY SITUATION WOULD HAVE DETERIORATED CONSIDERABLY.

'BUT OBVIOUSLY IF YOU(SOUTH AFRICA) CANNOT GET HELP IN THE FORM OF THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT YOU NEED, THERE IS NO POINT IN STAYING.'

HE SAID HE SAW SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AS 'A STOP-GAP OPERATION TRYING TO HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH TO ENABLE OTHER NATIONS TO MOBILIZE ASSISTANCE.'

HOWEVER, HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT CONSIDER SENDING TROOPS TO ANGOLA IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE.

MR. BOWEN SAID THE ANGOLAN SITUATION CALLED FOR A RE-ASSESSMENT OF UNITED STATES-SOVIET RELATIONS.

'THE SOVIET UNION'S CONTINUED POLICY OF AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALISM AROUND THE GLOBE, IN MY VIEW, VIOLATES THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE.'

MR. BOWEN, WHO HAD DISCUSSIONS IN CAPE TOWN THIS WEEK WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MR. P.W. BOTHA, AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HILGARD MULLER, SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CLOSER AND MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA.
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